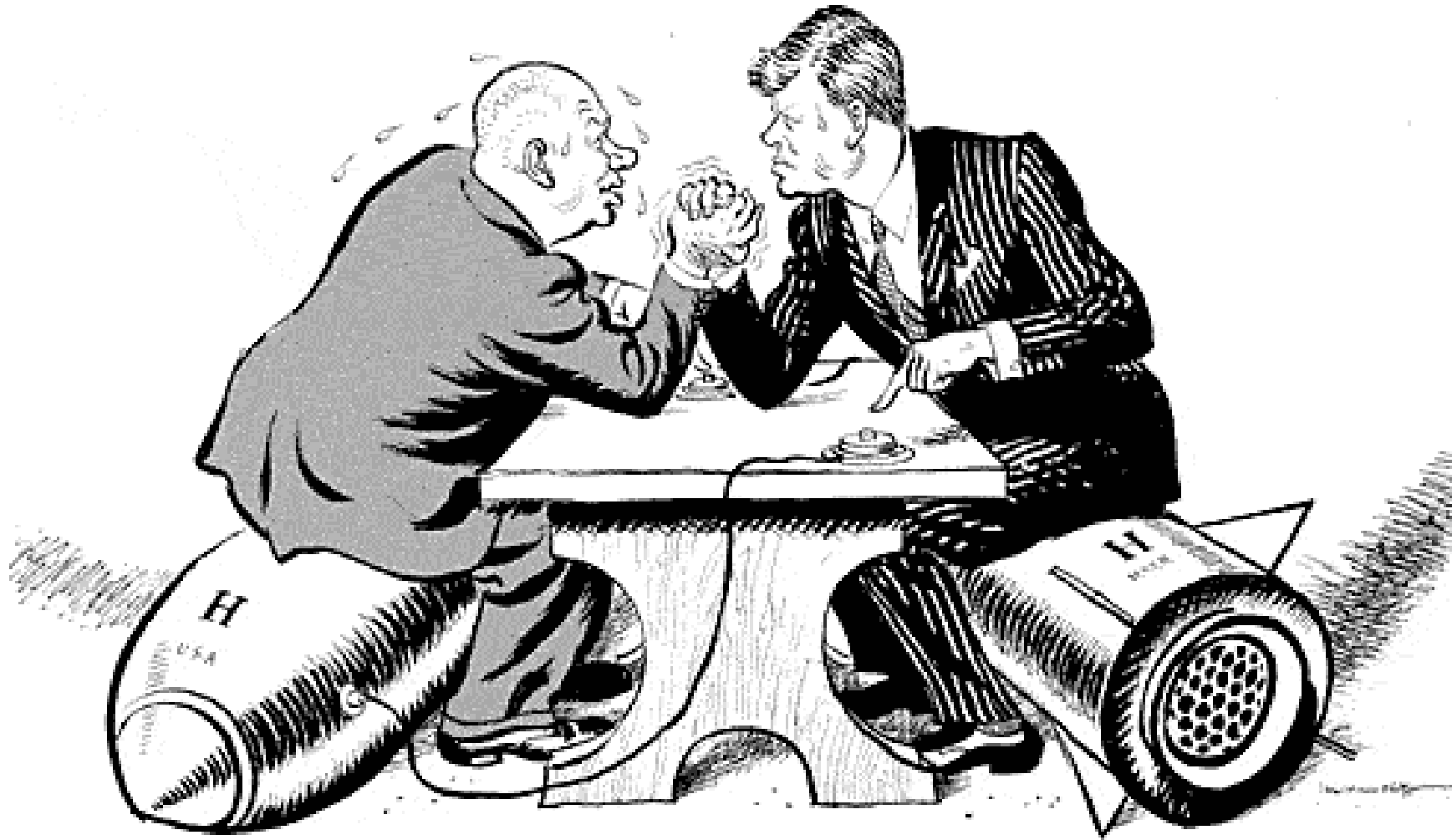
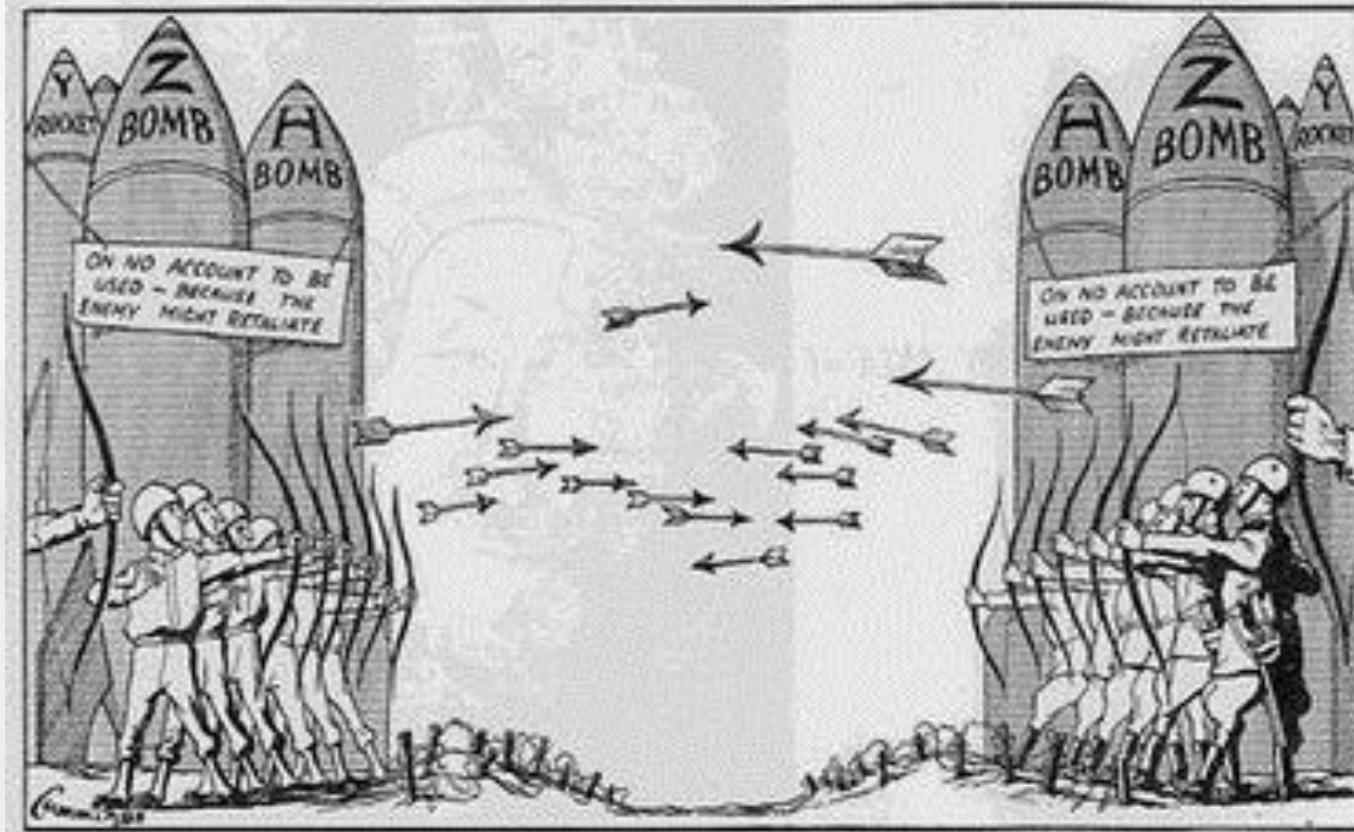


* US-VA History SOL Review: Post World War II America and the Cold War



*The Cold War Between the United States and the USSR



A War of Ideology and Visions, 1945 - 1991. The Cold War lasted from the end of World War II until the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The United States


- Capitalism - free trade and free enterprise.
- Democratic Government
- Individual Rights - Free Speech and Religion

The Soviet Union

- * Communism - the government controlled all.
- * Totalitarian Dictatorship
- * No Individual Rights - Dissent was not tolerated.

* Major Differences in the Cold War - The US vs. The Soviet Union

The United States and the Soviet Union represented starkly different fundamental values. The United States represented democratic political institutions and a generally free market economic system. The Soviet Union was totalitarian and had a communist - or socialist - economic system.

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly textured image of the United States flag. The blue field with white stars is visible in the upper left, while the red and white horizontal stripes dominate the rest of the frame. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the flag.

*The Cold War - Foreign Relations and Domestic Politics, 1945 - 1991

Peace and Prosperity as a Global Superpower

* Rebuilding Japan After World War II

Following its defeat, Japan was occupied by American forces. With Douglas MacArthur acting as the military governor of the islands, the nation was reconstructed as a democratic, capitalistic ally of the United States of America. Within just a few years it had resumed self-government - although it did not choose to rebuild its powerful military. The people of Japan even took on baseball as a pastime. Today, Japan is one of the United States' closest allies in Asia.





* Much of Europe was in ruins following World War II. The end of World War II found Soviet forces occupying most of Eastern and Southern Europe and the Eastern portion of Germany.



- * The United Nations was formed near the end of World War II to create a body for the nations of the world to try to prevent future global wars. Today, it serves as an international peacekeeping organization.

The United Nations - established 1945

*A Divide Germany

Germany was partitioned into East and West Germany following World War II. West Germany became democratic, and capitalistic, and was allowed to resume self-government after a few years of American, British, and French occupation.

The Soviet Union had been attacked twice by Germany in the 20th Century, and did not wish to see Germany reunified. East Germany remained under the domination of the Soviet Union and did not adopt democratic institutions. It would remain communist until 1989.

Similarly, the city of Berlin was divided into four parts. When Joseph Stalin attempted to take control of the city with the Berlin Blockade in 1948, American and British intervention saved the city. The “Berlin Airlift” kept the city supplied and thriving.



- The United States was committed to a policy of containment - a policy to stop the spread of Communism. The United States used a variety of methods to encourage containment:
 - The Truman Doctrine - economic intervention
 - The Marshall Plan - economic intervention
 - The Berlin Blockade - humanitarian aid
 - The Korean War - military intervention

***Containment**

* The Marshall Plan

The Marshall Plan for reconstructing Europe provided over \$13 Million to any nation in Europe which pledged itself to democracy and capitalism. Europe was in ruins, and the Marshall Plan provided massive financial aid in order to rebuild European economies and stop the spread of communism.

* **The United States felt it was in its best interest to help rebuild Europe and prevent political and economic instability.**



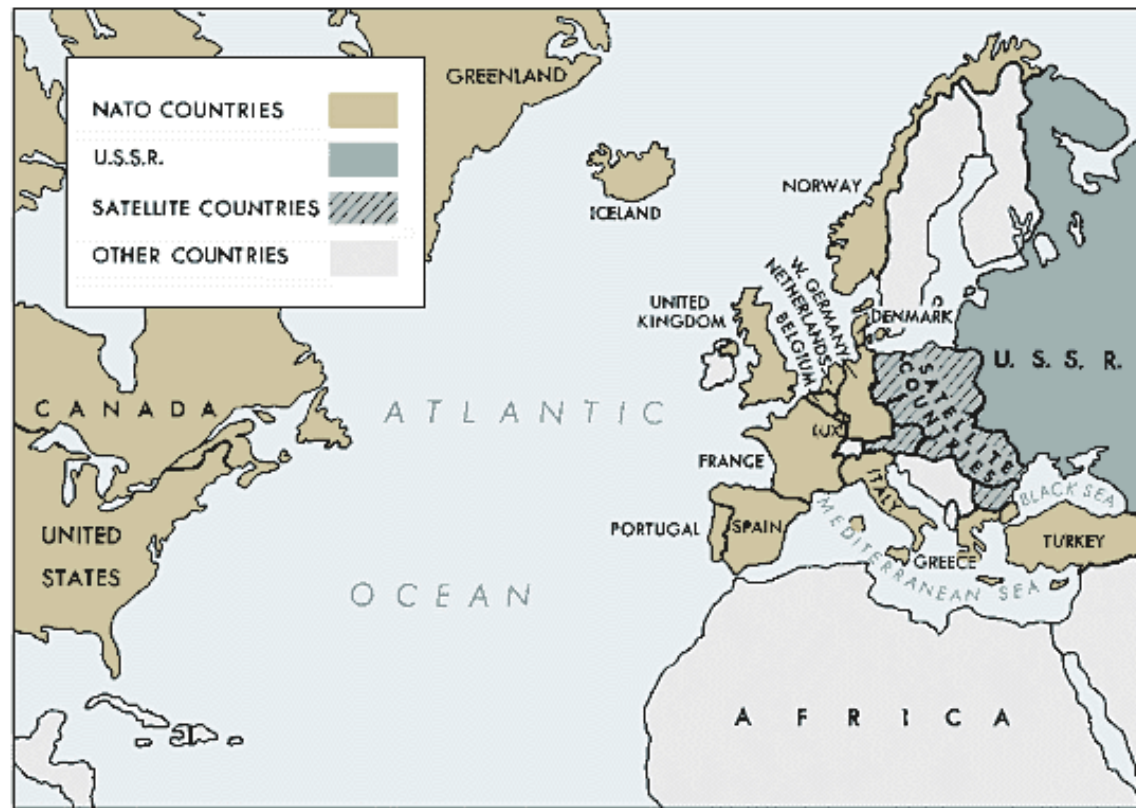
* The Truman Doctrine

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman introduced the policy of containment by announcing that the United States would provide over \$400 Million to Turkey and Greece to prevent the spread of communism. **The Truman Doctrine - and the \$400 Million - saved Turkey and Greece from communist aggression.**

The money was given to supporters of capitalism and democracy - our most treasured American values. Communism was halted. The containment policy had been successful.



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NATO Members:

The United States
Canada
England
France
Spain
Portugal
Italy
West Germany
Greece
Turkey

*** North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was created as a defensive alliance against the Soviet Union.**

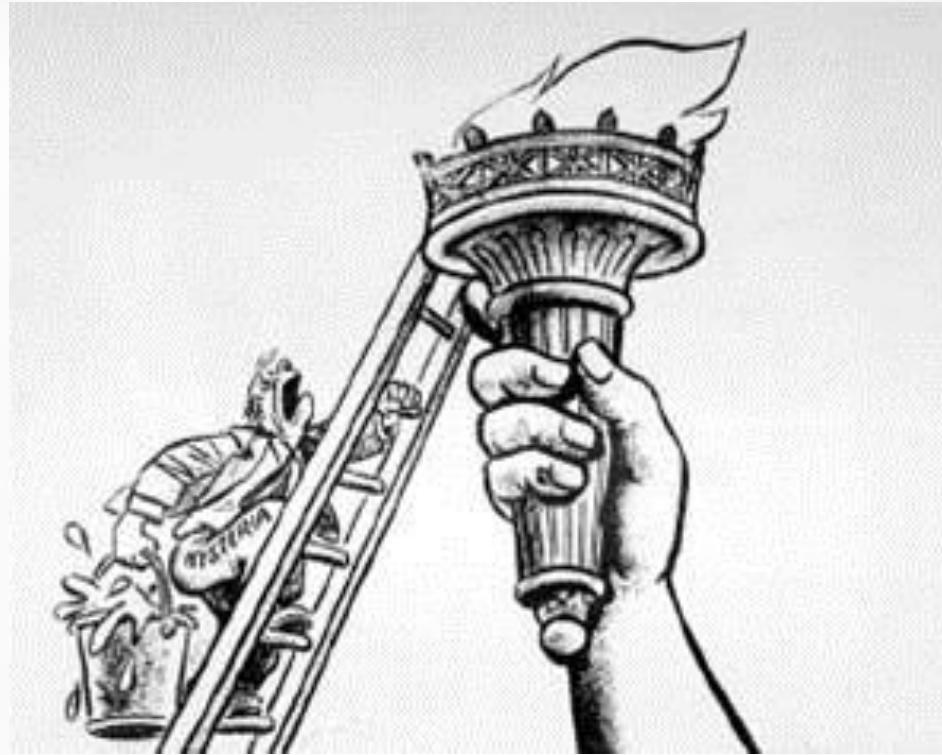


The Soviet Union responded to NATO with its own defensive alliance in 1955, when it created the Warsaw Pact. All of the nations of Eastern Europe - which the Soviet Union occupied militarily - were forced to join the alliance.

*The Warsaw Pact



* The Soviet Union controlled all of Eastern Europe. Winston Churchill would claim that Eastern Europe was behind the “Iron Curtain.”



***Fear of Communism Leads to the Red Scare at Home...**

* Assisted by the espionage of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, the Soviet Union acquired the nuclear bomb in 1949. The American monopoly on the nuclear bomb was over, and the Cold War had become a much more dangerous and frightening conflict. The Russians could now match our strength with atomic weapons of their own.



* Soviets Acquire the Atomic Bomb

*The Fall of China

The Communist takeover of China shortly after World War II increased American fears of communist domination of most of the world. Rather than becoming strong allies, however, the communist nations of China and the Soviet Union eventually became rivals for territory and diplomatic influence. The split between the Soviets and the Chinese was not immediately clear to Americans; however, under President Richard Nixon, Americans began to exploit the differences between the two nations.



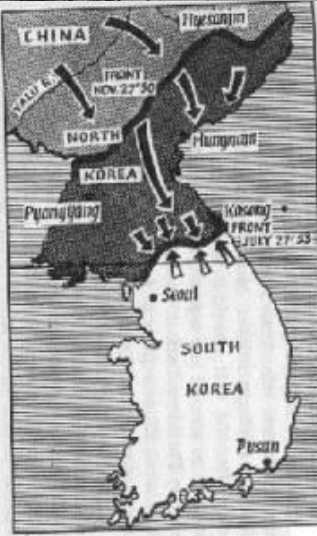
*The Korean War Amplifies Fears of Communism



June to September 1950
Opening situation—North Korean
penetration to the Pusan Perimeter

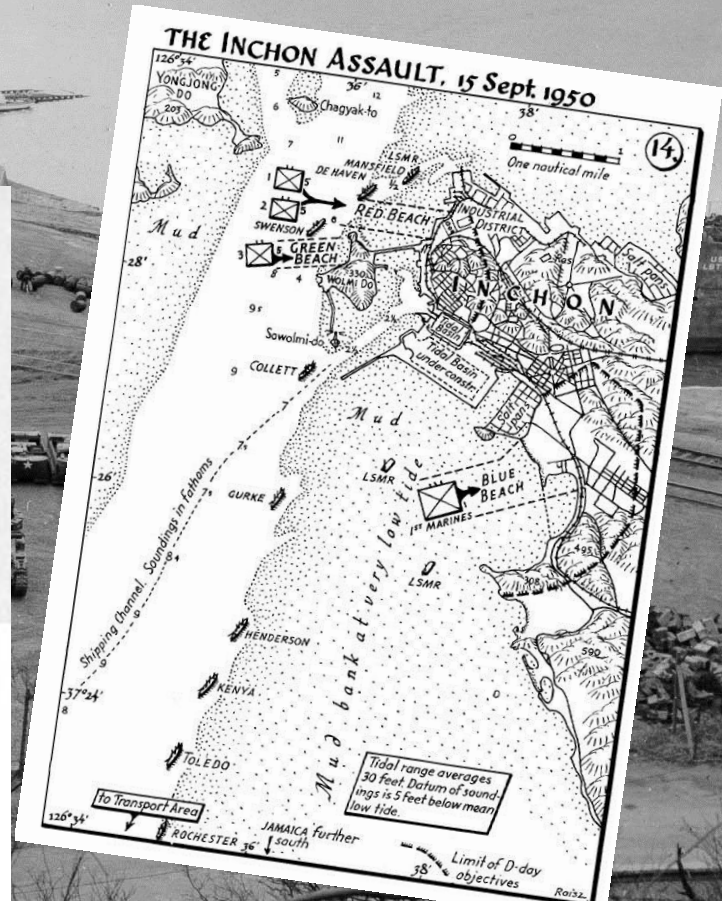


September to November 1950
United Nations counterattack



November 1950 to July 1953
Toward the cease-fire line

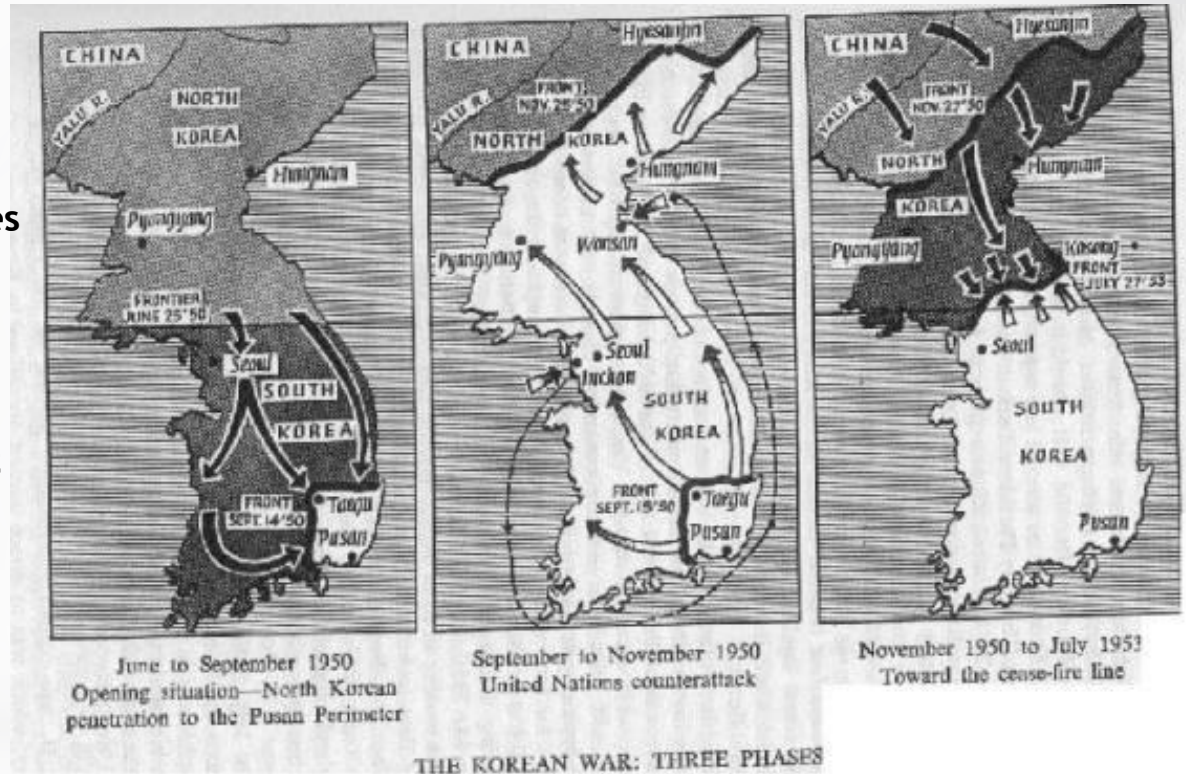
THE KOREAN WAR: THREE PHASES



* Major Conflicts During the Cold War Era

The Korean War ends in a STALEMATE.

1. North Korea attacked South Korea in the summer of 1950.
2. The United Nations gave permission for American forces to restore South Korea by invading.
3. MacArthur and his soldiers pushed the North Koreans out of South Korea; then, they attempted to take over North Korea.
4. ~~China entered the war and pushed Americans back to the 38th Parallel, and the war ended in a stalemate.~~



American involvement in the Korean War in the early 1950s reflected the American foreign policy of containment of communism. After communist North Korea invaded South Korea, American military forces led a UN counterattack.

* Major Conflicts During the Cold War Era

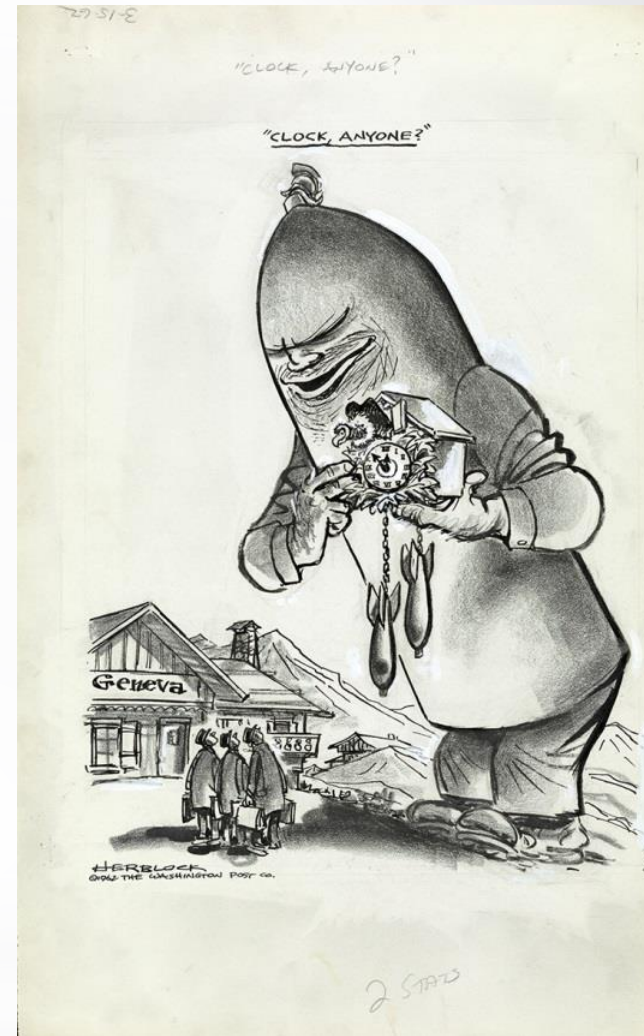
The Korean War ends in a **STALEMATE**.

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- 4. China entered the war and pushed Americans back to the 38th Parallel, and the war ended in a stalemate.**



After American forces drove deep into North Korea, Communist Chinese forces came into the war on the side of North Korea, and although the war threatened to widen, it eventually ended in a stalemate. Communist North Korea, led by Kim Il Sung, and democratic and capitalist South Korea, which prospers today.

* After the Soviet Union matched the United States in nuclear weaponry in the 1950s, the threat of a nuclear war that would destroy both countries was ever-present for the remainder of the Cold War. Under Eisenhower, the United States adopted a policy of “massive retaliation” to deter any nuclear strike by the Soviets. Both nations understood the consequences of a nuclear strike would be grave: “Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD).”



* **Dwight Eisenhower & “Massive Retaliation”**



*The Fear of Communism

The fear of communism and the threat of nuclear war affected American life throughout the Cold War.

During the 1950s and 1960s, American schools regularly held drills to train children what to do in case of nuclear attack, and American citizens were urged by the government to build bomb shelters in their own basements.





*Espionage!

The convictions of Alger Hiss and Julius and Ethel Rosenberg for spying for the Soviet Union left many Americans in a panic. Since the Soviet Union had gained government secrets like the ability to make the atomic bomb from spies, fears of communist agents in our midst ramped up. The fear of communism was at an all time high.



Americans were stunned to learn that Alger Hiss had participated in acts of espionage. When Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were discovered passing the secrets of the atomic weapon to the Soviets, they were executed.



* Joseph McCarthy and the Red Scare

Senator Joseph McCarthy played on American fears of communism by recklessly accusing many American government officials and other citizens of being communists based on flimsy or no evidence. This led to the coining of the term McCarthyism - the making of false accusations based on rumor or guilt by association. He was joined by the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) during the Red Scare in hurling accusations against innocent Americans for his own political gain. A small number of the men and women he accused actually had been associated with the communist party in the 1920s and 1930s - during the Great Depression, it had been a more popular group.

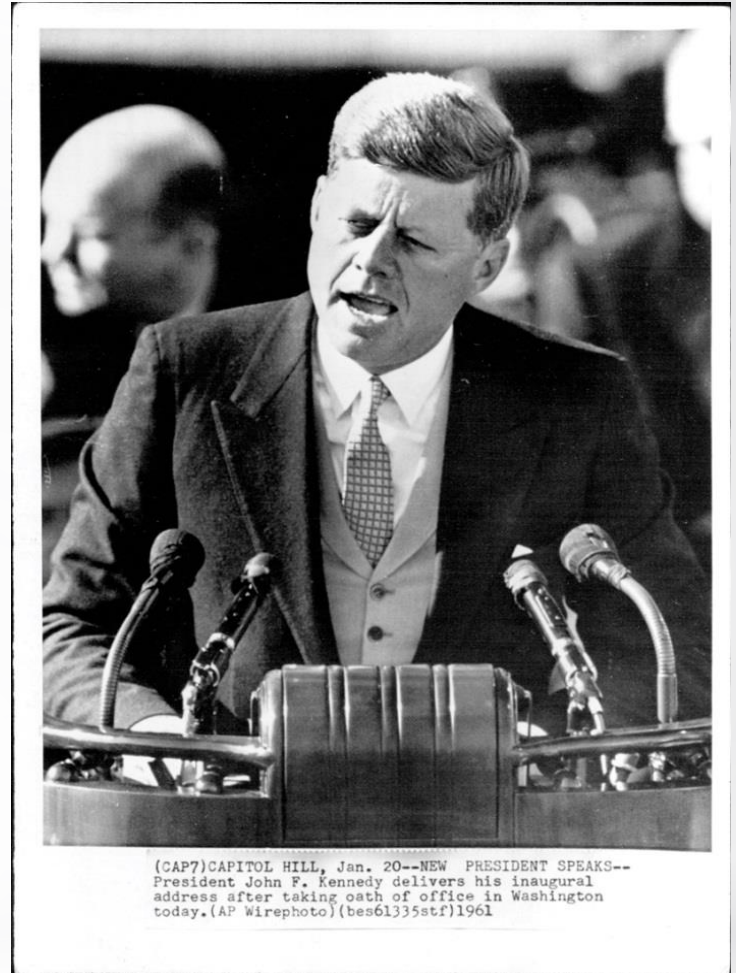


After making false accusations against thousands of Americans charging a communist conspiracy, Joseph McCarthy was eventually censured by the US Senate. After this public humiliation, he ended up drinking himself to death.

The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962



* President Kennedy pledged in his inaugural address that the United States would “pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty. In the same address, he also stated, “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.”



* John F. Kennedy: Cold War Leadership

* Cuba was also the site of Cold War confrontations. Fidel Castro led a communist revolution that took over Cuba in the late 1950s. Many Cubans fled to Florida and later the United States organized an attempt to invade and overthrow Castro. This invasion, called “The Bay of Pigs” invasion, failed. John F. Kennedy, who had inherited the plan from Eisenhower, refused to call in air strikes to assist the counter-revolution.



* Fidel Castro and the Bay of Pigs Invasion

- * In 1962, the US discovered that the Soviet Union had stationed **nuclear missiles** in Cuba. Fidel Castro sought protection after the Bay of Pigs Invasion.
- * **John F. Kennedy** responded by placing a **blockade** around Cuba and ordering **Nikita Khrushchev** remove the missiles. Over several days, the world teetered on the brink of nuclear war. Eventually, the Soviets “blinked.”
- * After coming close to nuclear war, the USSR agreed to remove the missiles in exchange for a promise from the United States never to invade Cuba. The US also pledged to remove some of our missiles from Turkey.



* The Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962

* President Kennedy a World War II veteran, as assassinated in 1963 in Dallas, Texas. The assassination of the President was an event that shook the nation's confidence and began a period of internal strife and divisiveness. Presidents Johnson and Nixon would both struggle to keep the nation unified in our efforts to stop the spread of communism, particularly in Vietnam.



* Kennedy Assassinated

*“During the Cold War, millions of Americans served in the military, defending freedom in wars and conflicts that were not always popular. Many were killed or wounded. As a result of their service, the United States and American ideals of democracy and freedom ultimately prevailed in the Cold War struggle with Soviet communism.”



*American Militarism During the Cold War

*Virginia Prospered Due to Military Spending During the Cold War

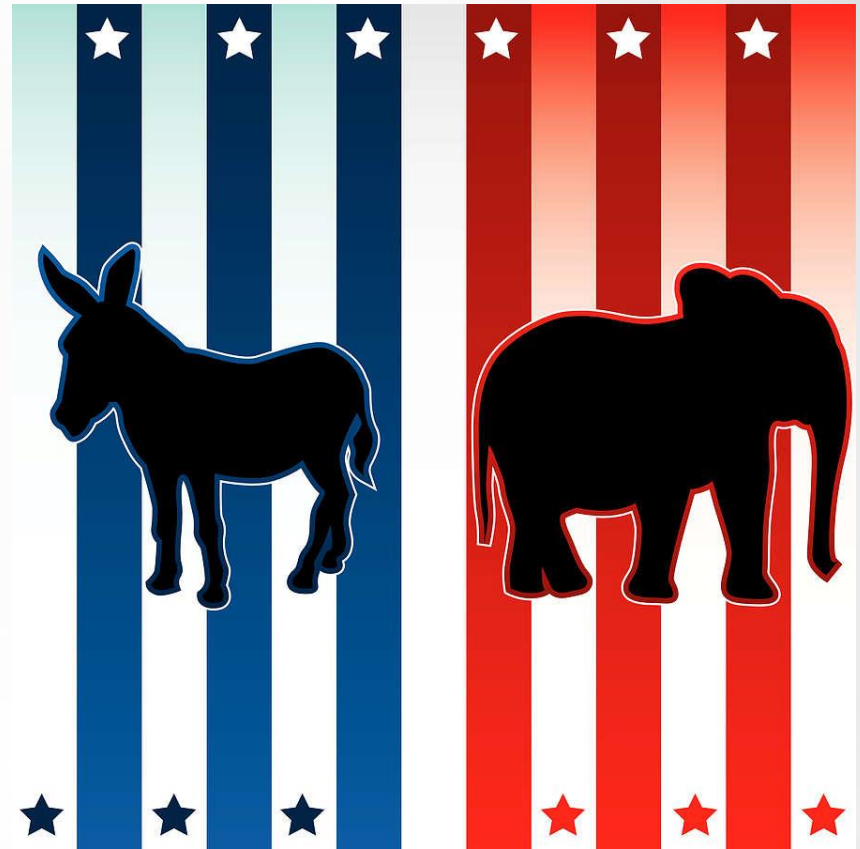
The heavy military expenditures throughout the Cold War benefited Virginia's economy proportionately more than any other state. Hampton Roads did especially well during this period, because it is the home to several large naval and air bases. In Northern Virginia, the home to the Pentagon and numerous private companies that contract with the military, the region prospered due to Cold War spending as well.

What the Pentagon bought in 2012:

Planes and helicopters \$32.6 BILLION 	Petroleum and oil \$21.6 BILLION 	Guided missiles \$10.4 BILLION 	Combat/assault vehicles \$5.2 BILLION 	Dairy and eggs \$4 BILLION 	Amphibious assault ships \$3.9 BILLION 
Space vehicles \$3.6 BILLION 	Submarines \$3.4 BILLION 	Nuclear reactors \$2.5 BILLION 	Drugs and pharmaceuticals \$2.5 BILLION 	Combat ships and landing vessels \$2.2 BILLION 	Unmanned aircraft and drones \$2.2 BILLION 
Aircraft carriers \$1.5 BILLION 	Meat, poultry, and fish \$1.2 BILLION 	Bombs \$1 BILLION 	Small-arms ammunition \$978 MILLION 	Destroyers \$977 MILLION 	Night-vision equipment \$834 MILLION 
Fruit and vegetables \$783 MILLION 	Bakery and cereal products \$738 MILLION 	Nonalcoholic beverages \$554 MILLION 	Land mines \$547 MILLION 	Small arms \$413 MILLION 	Sugar, confectionery, and nuts \$294 MILLION 
Composite food packages (MREs) \$260 MILLION 	Soap, toothpaste, and shaving preparations \$226 MILLION 	Footwear \$152 MILLION 	Bulk explosives \$103 MILLION 	Live animals (not for food) \$102 MILLION 	Bolts and screws \$86 MILLION 
Soups and bouillons \$85 MILLION 	Tobacco products \$85 MILLION 	Coffee, tea, and cocoa \$73 MILLION 	Underwear and nightwear \$18 MILLION 	Badges and insignia \$16 MILLION 	Blood and blood products \$1 MILLION 

*Politics in America: Don't be Soft on Communism!

The Cold War made foreign policy a major issue in every presidential election during the period. No American President wanted to appear to be “weak on communism.” Therefore, demonstrating that the United States would build up its military to oppose communist expansion across the globe was very, very important to being elected.



Taking the hard line against communism and increasing military spending was always the right way to win the election during the Cold War years!



*The Vietnam War, 1964 - 1975

* Like American intervention in Korea and in Cuba, American involvement in the Vietnam War also reflected the Cold War policy of containment of communism. In the years following World War II, the Vietnamese had fought for self-government, defeating their French colonial rulers. Beginning in the 1950s and continuing into the early 1960s, the communist government of North Vietnam attempted to achieve self-rule in Vietnam by installing a communist government in South Vietnam. The United States intervened to stop the spread of communism and protect the South Vietnamese government.



* The Vietnam War Era



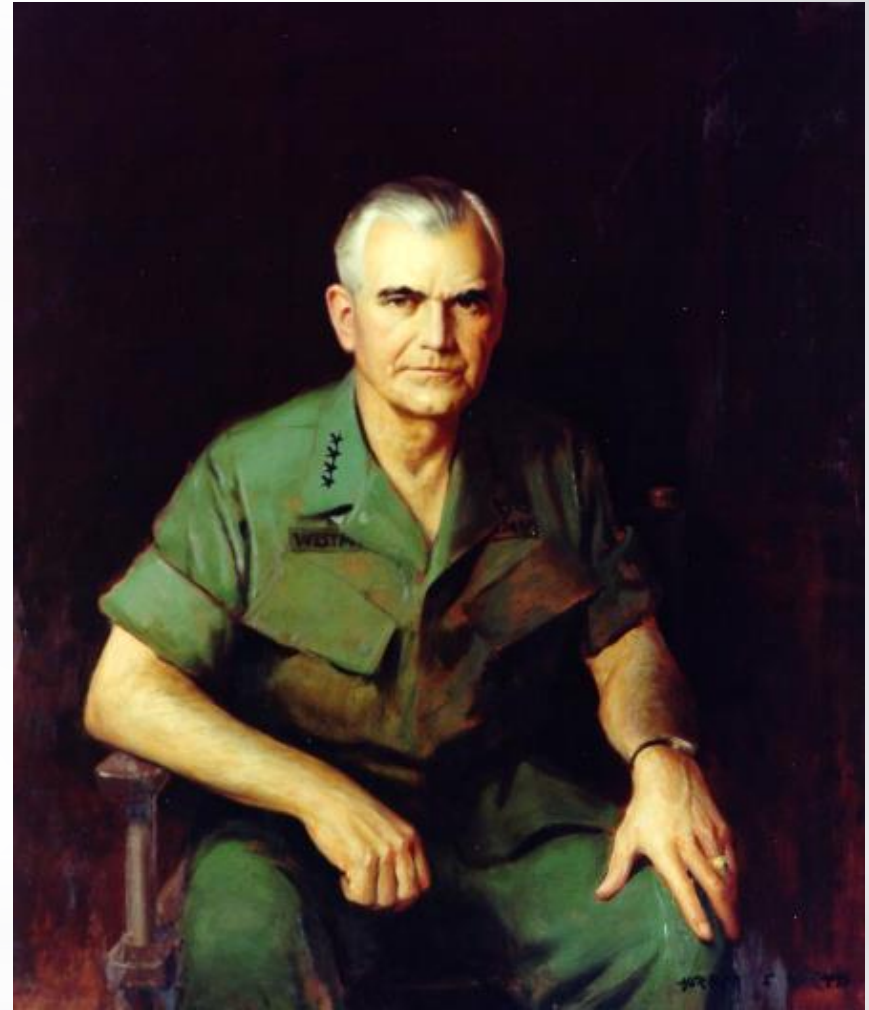
Americans first involvement in the Vietnam War had taken place under John F. Kennedy. Under Johnson, the military buildup began in earnest. The United States intervened in Vietnam after the Gulf of Tonkin Incident took place in 1964. It would ruin Lyndon Baines Johnson's Presidency, and millions of Vietnamese - along with close to 59,000 Americans - would die in the war. LBJ and others feared that if Vietnam fell to communism, other nearby nations would, too. This was the domino theory.



David Levine,
New York
Review of Books,
May 12, 1966.

*** The Domino Theory was a critical reason for US Intervention in the Vietnam War.**

- *The scale of combat in Vietnam grew larger during the 1960s. American military forces repeatedly defeated the North Vietnamese forces in the field, but by fighting a limited war, Americans could not force an end to the war on favorable terms.
- *During the Vietnam War, close to 60,000 American soldiers were killed in Vietnam.
- *During the Vietnam War, millions of Vietnamese were killed - both soldiers and civilians.



*A Growing War in Vietnam



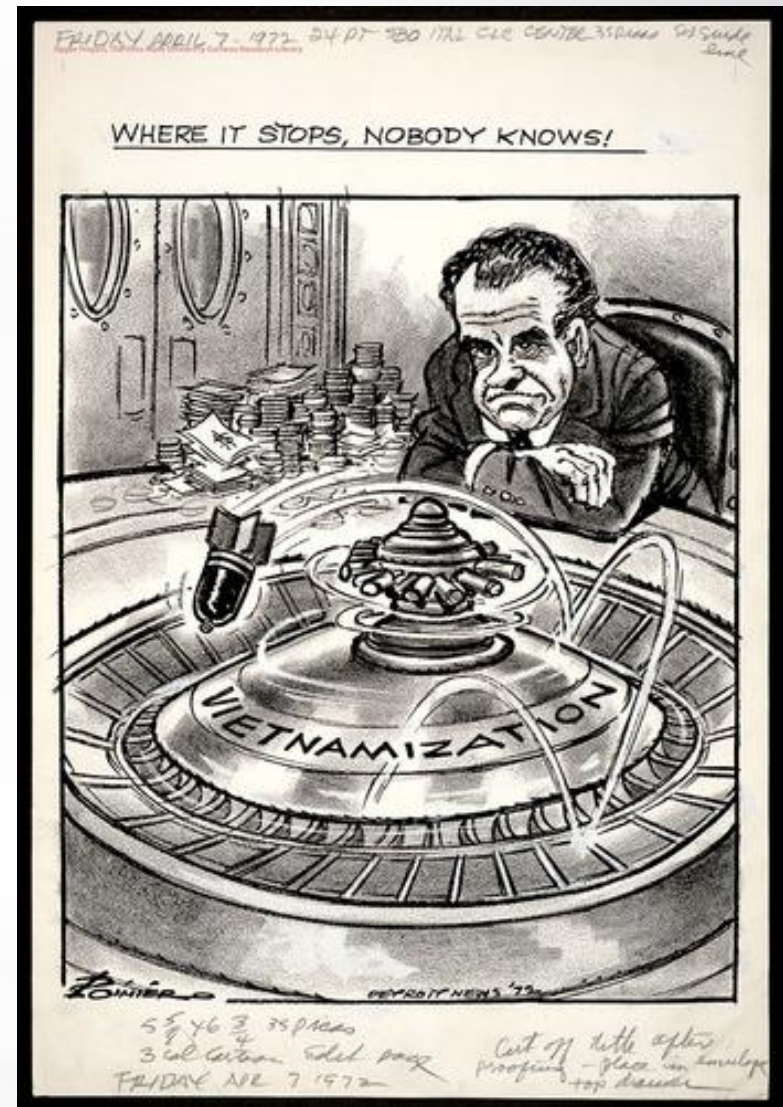
- * Americans were bitterly divided over the war in Vietnam. Hawks wanted to continue fighting against communism no matter the cost. Doves argued that the war was not just, and that the Vietnamese only wanted independence and self-government. Huge protests against the Vietnam War mounted, especially on college campuses.

* Lyndon Johnson, faced by students chanting, “Hey, hey, LBJ, how many boys did you kill today?” opted not to run for re-election in 1968. President Nixon was elected on a pledge to bring the Vietnam War to an honorable end. He instituted a policy of “Vietnamization,” withdrawing American troops and replacing them with South Vietnamese soldiers - while continuing to support the South Vietnamese government with military and financial aid.



*Vietnamization

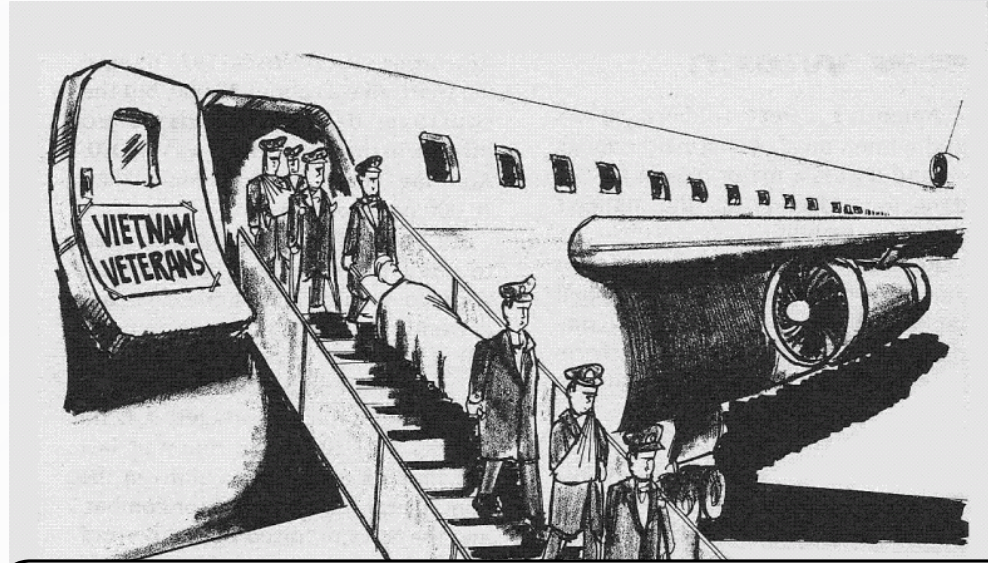
- * Ultimately, Vietnamization failed when South Vietnamese troops proved unable to resist invasion by the Soviet-supplied North Vietnamese Army. (Shocking...)
- * American policy lost focus for a time as President Richard Nixon was being forced out of office for his role in the Watergate Scandal.
- * Under President Gerald Ford, North and South Vietnam were merged under communist control.



*Vietnamization Fails

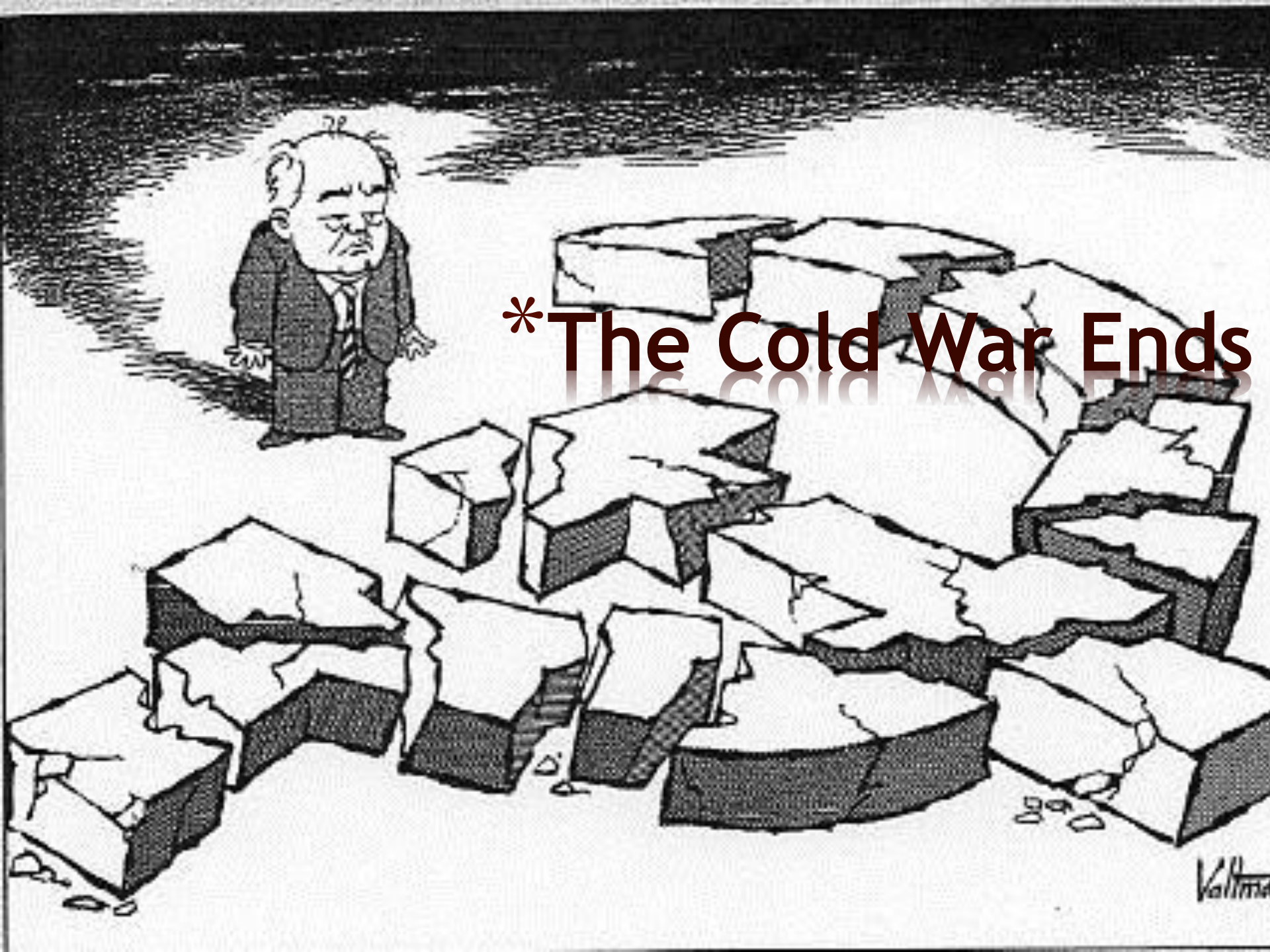
* The Vietnam War ended in 1973 when the US signed a cease fire and withdrew its troops. Communists took power almost immediately.

* Unlike veterans of World War II, who returned to grateful and supportive Americans, Vietnam War veterans returned often to face indifference or outright hostility from some who opposed the war. It was not until several years after the end of the Vietnam War that the wounds of the war began to heal in America, and Vietnam veterans were recognized and honored for their service and sacrifices.



Vietnam Veterans - **NO YELLOW RIBBONS,
NO PARADES, NO RESPECT.**

***Vietnam War
Veterans**



***The Cold War Ends**

Valtma

- * 1. The Soviet Union could not afford to continue spending enormous amounts of money to maintain its military capabilities.
- * 2. Rising nationalism in nations like Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania led to secession movements.



*The Soviet Union Weakens and Falls Apart

- * 3. Communism does not work as an economic system. It is inefficient, it lacks innovation and entrepreneurship, and it was unable to keep up with the free market capitalism in the United States.
- * 4. Fast paced reforms of the communist system, called perestroika, caused turmoil and did not catch on quickly enough.
- * 5. Gorbachev's glasnost policies allowed for criticism and dissent in the Soviet Union.



*The Soviet Union Weakens and Falls Apart



* In 1989, Germans tore down the Berlin Wall. Germany was reunified in 1990. Communism was very much on the decline - China, N. Korea, Vietnam, and Cuba were the final practitioners.

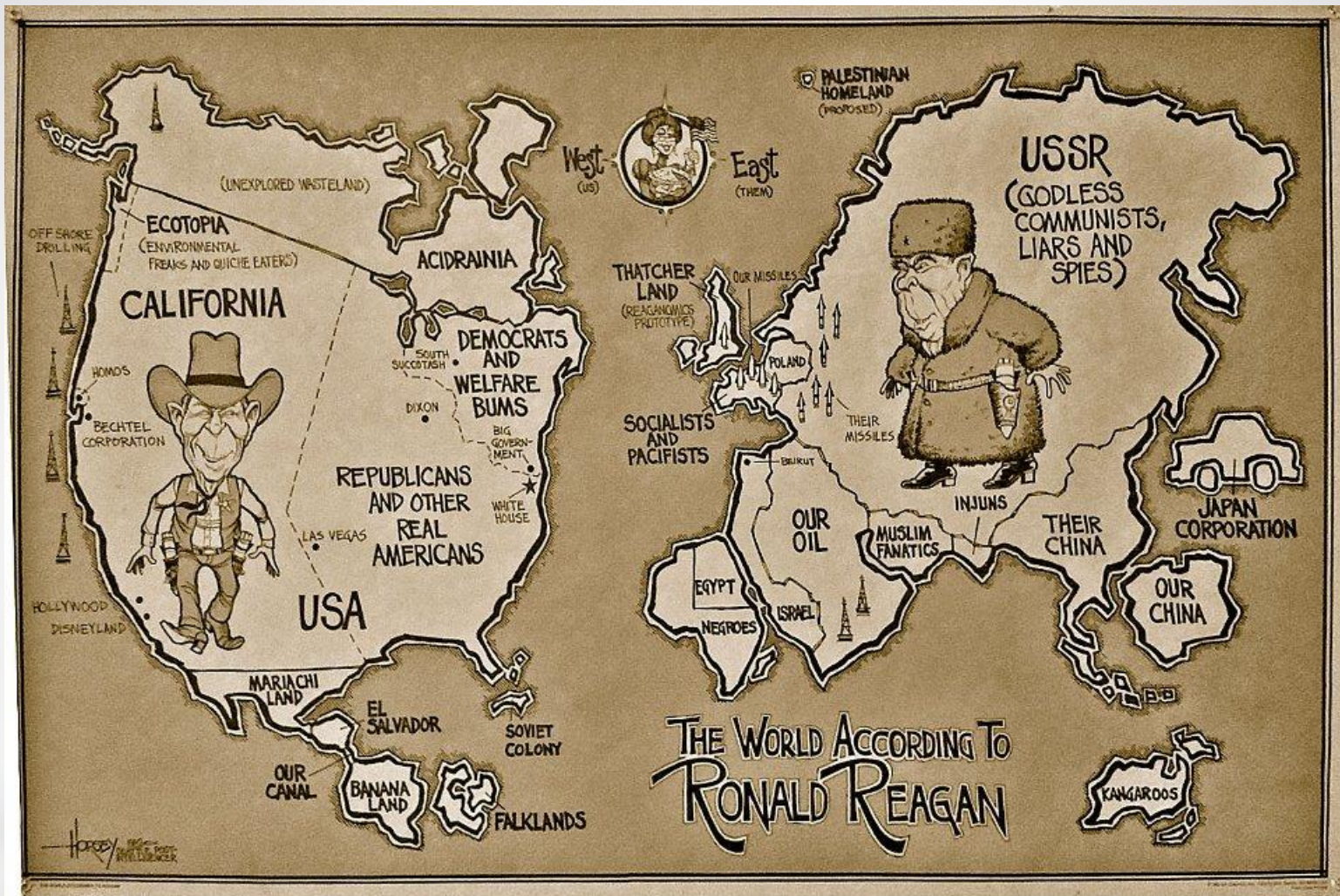


- * The Soviet Union allowed its satellites in Eastern Europe to choose their own course going forward. Then, in 1991, the Soviet Union itself collapsed. Russia - without its fifteen controlled states - was reborn.

*Ronald Reagan

- Ronald Reagan, who had once called the USSR an “evil empire,” found himself a wonderful partner in Michael Gorbachev. While Gorbachev began making changes to the Soviet system, Reagan kept constant pressure upon Gorbachev to keep up the pace of reforms for greater democracy and economic freedom in the Soviet Union and their satellite nations.
- Reagan challenged the moral legitimacy of the USSR, insisting in a speech at the Berlin Wall, “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”
- The increased military spending and economic pressure which Reagan put on the Soviet Union put pressure on the nation, leading to the collapse of the USSR in 1991.





*Reagan Opposed Communism